

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2005

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman
Secretary-designate of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW Rm 7A257
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Bodman:

We, as members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation, are writing to strongly urge you to place the FutureGen Initiative in Southern Illinois.

As you know, the Department of Energy (DOE) continues to direct significant research and development funding to discover new technologies that will use coal in a more efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable manner. Representative of these efforts is the FutureGen Initiative, the \$1 billion public/private partnership to design and operate a nearly emission-free, coal-fired electric and hydrogen power plant. This significant initiative continues to garner bi-partisan support in Congress.

Illinois has almost one-eighth of the coal reserves in the United States and the largest reserves of bituminous coal in the nation. The State of Illinois has long supported its coal industry through programs that finance research, development, and commercialization of new technologies and uses of coal. As a result, Illinois is a national leader in developing clean and efficient coal technologies.

For example, Southern Illinois University Carbondale operates its Coal Research Center, one of the field's most comprehensive programs in the United States, with a combination of facilities and achievements that make it a unique contributor to our nation's energy infrastructure. The Coal Research Center conducts a wide range of studies with direct practical applicability to the commercial development of coal. The ramifications of the center's work extend far beyond state lines and include improvements of coal cleaning processes and the reduction of air pollution from coal-fired power plants.

In addition, carbon sequestration will be one of the primary features that will set the FutureGen plant apart from other electric power projects. No other plant in the world has been built with this capability. Illinois offers geological sequestration potential over a wide area of the Illinois basin with potential storage media for carbon sequestration in structures such as deep coal beds, mature oil reservoirs, and saline reservoirs.

Our state's strong commitment to the growth of its coal and energy industries and its natural resources, geological composition, infrastructure, and extensive research and expertise in coal

allows Illinois to play a proactive role in our national energy future. We respectfully urge you to give careful consideration to locating the FutureGen project in Southern Illinois.

90 Dennis Hastert Sincerely,

Dan Swisher

Greg J. Costello

Tom Evans

Mark Ford

Barney D. Davis

Bob Brown

Henry Hyde

Melissa L. Bean

Tim Walle

Frank Damm

John R. ...

David Zygmunt

Alan Kim

Jan Schakowsky

Ralph ...

Mr. ...

Judy Beggert

Tim ...